



The State University of New York  
Student Assembly

## Executive Committee

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### RESOLUTION

**TO:** SUNY and the SUNY Assembly

**FROM:** Burgandi K. Rakoska, Co-Chair of the Committee of Equity and Inclusion, SUNY Fredonia

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 1st, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Anti-Racism Resolution

#### Action Requested

In light of disturbing instances of racism at various SUNY campuses, the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly are uniting behind an Anti-Racism Resolution that allows us to affirm our determination to be an inclusive, diverse, safe and affirmative Better SUNY Community.

This is a modification of the SUNY Brockport Anti-Racism Resolution: [\(x\)](#)

#### Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the national Black Lives Matter movement for civil justice is calling attention to pervasive and continued racism throughout American society and, in particular, in relation to the criminal justice system ; and

Whereas SUNY students on various campuses have faced racist attacks and threats both verbally and via social media by some members of the SUNY community ; and

Whereas we recognize that these racist incidents are linked to a wider climate of discrimination throughout the nation, including on college campuses; and

Whereas the State University of New York strives to be a best practices community of teaching and learning, where promoting ideas and conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion are encouraged in a manner free of hate and discrimination ; and therefore, be it

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly choose to be a part of an academic community that is dedicated to principles of human rights and dignity that foster integrity, civility, justice, and non-discrimination ; and, be it further

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly will work to increase the equity and inclusiveness that supports a concerted attempt to increase the diversity of SUNY's students, faculty and staff ; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that, where appropriate, the various SUNY campuses create specific institutional antiracism goals for various campus-wide programs and events, and strongly encourage faculty to develop learning outcomes that can be tied to these institutional goals in their courses ; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly recommends that the various SUNY campuses prioritize the strengthening and enhancing of the Diversity General Education requirement, especially by encouraging programs and departments to ensure that each class with a "D" designation meets the stated student learning outcome: "Students will analyze social conflicts, prejudices, and/or intolerance relevant to a contemporary setting, and arising from such issues as racism, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, class, etc. These concerns shall constitute a major or central theme of the course, as opposed to a peripheral or occasional consideration." ; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly call on the Administration of various SUNY campuses to openly discuss and immediately condemn incidents of racism on campus, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation ; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly request the Administration of various SUNY campuses to respond openly, directly and rapidly to denounce racist incidents on each individual campus.; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that the faculty and staff of various SUNY campuses

routinely engage in professional development around equity, diversity and inclusion ; and, be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly request that the various SUNY campuses make more training and professional development opportunities available so that faculty and staff can access professional antiracism, intercultural awareness, diversity training and development, including the use of campus and SUNY-wide resources and mandated policies, such as the Discrimination Complaint Procedure ; and be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly call on the various SUNY campuses to create procedures to formally recognize and reward the importance of routine professional development around diversity issues ; and be it further,

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly ; and, finally, be it

Resolved That the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly affirms that we aspire to build a Better SUNY Community and again commit ourselves to the values below:

## **BETTER COMMUNITY STATEMENT:**

As members of the State University of New York, we choose to be a part of an academic community that is dedicated to principles that foster integrity, civility and justice.

As citizens of a broad and pluralist society, we encourage those of all cultures, orientations and backgrounds to educate, understand and respect one another in a safe environment.

- *We respect the dignity of all persons and assume the best about them.*
- *We challenge and reject all forms of bigotry while striving to learn from each other's differences.*
- *We celebrate our differences while appreciating our similarities*
- *We value an inclusive environment that is accepting of each other's cultural, physical, cognitive, social and professional differences.*
- *We respect the rights of each and every member of the community, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, disability or socioeconomic status.*
- *We realize that our common interests exceed our individual differences.*

As members of this SUNY community, we strive for academic and personal excellence that will enable us to achieve lives of productive work, personal enrichment and useful citizenship in an increasingly interdependent world

- *We invite the exploration of new ideas that can stretch us beyond artificial barriers that are academic, political or social.*
- *We affirm that the well-being of our individual units, groups, organizations or disciplines cannot be separated from the overall SUNY community.*
- *We, as members of smaller groups on campus, respect and affirm the transcendent values and principles of the overall SUNY community.*
- *We uphold the right of each individual to pursue his or her intellectual, educational, professional and personal goals in a fair and encouraging environment.*

As individuals who work, study or live in this SUNY community, we affirm our rights to freedom of expression and association, and the belief that they must be exercised responsibly.

- *We value the right to due process which includes concepts of fairness, notice, opportunity to be heard, and timely and objective review of determinations.*
- *We acknowledge that free speech, debate and discourse are necessary to achieve an examined life.*
- *We acknowledge that the essence of academic freedom is the free and open expression and exchange of ideas, even when controversial or unconventional.*

- *We affirm that the dignity of our SUNY community is protected when free speech, academic freedom and individual rights are expressed only with responsible and careful regard for the feelings and sensitivities of others.*

The spirit of building a better community is best served when the ideals of integrity, civility and justice are expressed and debated with tolerance and good will.

The Better Community Statement is a declaration of the values and beliefs of the State University of New York and the SUNY Student Assembly. It is not intended to obligate, or to be binding upon, any student within SUNY, nor is it intended to provide grounds for disciplinary action against any student within SUNY.